Langlade County Outdoor Recreation Plan

Also covering the municipalities within Langlade County

2017-2021
Effective January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021

Prepared by: North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Langlade County Board of Supervisors

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Cover Photo: Wolf River, Langland County Forestry and Recreation Department

December 2016

This plan was prepared under the direction of the Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

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ABSTRACT

TITLE: LANGLADE COUNTY OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN
2017-2021    Effective January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2021

SUBJECT: This report assesses the existing recreation system in Langlade County, identifies recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating recreation plans, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years.

Submission of this adopted ORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the county and local units of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids. This requirement can be found in Chapter NR 50, Wisconsin administrative code for the following programs; Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP).

Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

DATE: December 2016

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<td>62</td>
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A. Langlade County Wisconsin Bicycle Map
B. Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results
C. Park Design and Location Criteria
D. State and Federal Outdoor Recreation Funding Programs
Chapter 1
INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this recreation plan is to provide continued direction toward meeting the current and future recreation needs of the county. This is accomplished through an inventory and analysis of outdoor recreational facilities, and the establishment of recommendations to meet identified needs.

Adoption of this plan by the Langlade County Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WisDNR), will continue eligibility of the county and its local units of government for the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program (LWCF), Aids for the Acquisition and Development of Local Parks (ADLP), Urban Green Space Program (UGS) and Urban Rivers Grant Program (URGP). Adoption by all municipalities is not necessary if they wish to cooperate with Langlade County to use this plan for grant applications. Local government grant applications have a better chance of approval if Langlade County applies on their behalf.

Non-profit groups, foundations, and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

STATUTORY BASE FOR THIS PLAN

This Outdoor Recreation Plan (ORP) was prepared pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §23.30 Outdoor Recreation Program. This section serves to “promote, encourage, coordinate, and implement a comprehensive long-range plan to acquire, maintain, and develop for public use, those areas of the state best adapted to the development of a comprehensive system of state and local outdoor recreation facilities and services...”

Submission of this adopted ORP to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the county and local units of government to apply for a variety of Federal and State Aids for outdoor recreation (Chapter NR 50.06(4), Wisconsin administrative code).

PLAN COMPONENTS

This plan addresses the outdoor recreation needs for county facilities, the Village of White Lake, and all 17 towns. The City of Antigo has its own plan, and is included for reference.

Background information on Langlade County was compiled to develop an understanding of the environmental and social characteristics of the county and their meaning for outdoor recreation. An inventory of existing recreational facilities exists in Chapter 3 of this plan.

The existing recreation system was analyzed to determine current and potential future deficiencies. A combination of public survey compilation, standards analysis, and the Wisconsin Statewide...
Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) were utilized to define recreational and open space needs. Goals and objectives were created to guide the direction of recreational planning efforts within Langlade County.

The recommendations are general strategies and five-year capital improvement programs for recreation facility development. A series of possible tools to aid implementation of these recommendations are set forth. This plan concludes with a note on updating to insure that it remains relevant to the needs of the county over the entire five-year span.

REFERENCE PLANS

Langlade County was involved in recreation planning as early as 1964, when a County Forest Plan developed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) addressed potential recreation facilities with the county forests. In 1974, WDNR developed a plan that focused on county forests and addressed recreation needs within the local municipalities countywide. Langlade County, the City of Antigo, and the Village of White Lake directed North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) to develop consecutive 5-year outdoor recreation plans starting in 1979. This 2011-2016 plan was written to continue the parks and recreation program established in the Langlade County Outdoor Recreation Plans since 1979.

Plan summaries that affect outdoor recreation in Langlade County are referenced below, and Map 1 shows any referenced routes:

*Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016*

**NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016/2017.**

Every five years, the Wisconsin DNR publishes a SCORP as required by the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. At its core, this SCORP is used to help allocate federal funds equitably among local communities, but the document also transcends many levels of outdoor recreation discussion and policy. At the national level, this SCORP recognizes the America’s Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative, which is based on the idea that the protection of the country’s natural heritage is a nonpartisan objective shared by all Americans. The AGO encourages state and local communities to develop local conservation and recreation initiatives.

This document shows a clear vision of how preserving and improving recreation opportunities in Wisconsin fits within a broader national initiative of conservation and recreation.

*North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan*

**NOTE: This plan is being updated in 2016/2017.**

This 2004 document is intended to guide the development of an interconnected bikeway system for the North Central Wisconsin Region. Potential trails are identified and an improvement description was created for each county that trails existed to facilitate how the plan can become reality in a cost efficient manner.

Langlade County trails within this regional plan come from the 1999 Citizen Bike Route Initiative Plan. That plan established a network of on-road bike routes and asks WisDOT to
improve STH 64 to accommodate bicycles between Antigo and Merrill.

**State Trails Network Plan**

This 2003 document clarifies a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) role and strategy in the provision of all types of trails. The plan identifies a series of potential trail corridors that would link existing trails, public lands, natural features, and communities. This statewide network of interconnected trails would be owned and maintained by municipalities, private entities, and partnerships of the two. Preserving transportation corridors, such as old rail lines, is specifically discussed as a very important strategy in the creation of recreational and alternative transportation corridors. These trails are shown on Map 1.

**Segment 19—Langlade County to Michigan**

NCWRPC note: The right-of-way no longer exists, so this segment is not described.

**Segment 56—Argonne to Shawano**

NCWRPC note: This is now the Wolf River State Trail from Crandon south to White Lake.

This is an active rail corridor with abandonment expected in fall of 2000 on the segment from Crandon to White Lake. Argonne is on the Dresser to Michigan corridor in the north, and Shawano links to the Mountain Bay Trail in the south of the corridor. The Crandon to Tomahawk corridor and the White Lake to Antigo corridor link to the Langlade County to Michigan corridor to form a loop. An old abandoned corridor east of White Lake in the future could link this corridor to the Nicolet State Trail or connect it to road routes. This corridor runs along the east shore of Lake Metonga at Crandon, then runs south through forested lake areas of the Nicolet National Forest. In Langlade County it follows the Wolf River for about seven miles and continues south through the Northwest portion of the Menominee Indian Reservation, terminating at Shawano and its connection to the Mountain Bay Trail.

**Segment 70—Antigo to White Lake**

NCWRPC note: The right-of-way no longer exists, so this segment is not described.

**Langlade County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan**

This 2006-2020 document contains the Langlade County Forest Access Plan. A summary of this plan's conclusions was inserted into the public participation part of Chapter 4 – Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment.
Wisconsin Land Legacy Report 2006-2056

This report is a comprehensive inventory of the special places that will be critical to meet future conservation and outdoor recreation needs for the next fifty years. Some of the questions asked to guide creation of this report were: Which lands and waters remain unprotected that will be critical for conserving our plants and animals and their habitats? What gaps exist now (and will likely emerge in the future) in providing abundant and satisfying outdoor recreation? How can we most effectively build upon the state's existing investment in protected lands to fill conservation and recreation gaps? What special places will our children and grandchildren wish we had protected? The study focused on identifying what of our state or regionally significant green infrastructure remains to be protected.

The Land Legacy report recommends protection of these lands by using federal, state, and local funding opportunities; along with possibly creating new kinds of incentives for landowners, working to draft comprehensive plans, or offering different types of technical assistance.

Each Langlade County Legacy Area is summarized below with 5 stars representing the highest level for that category:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CN Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest</th>
<th>PR Prairie River</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Large Protection Initiated Substantial Protection Remaining Limited Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</td>
<td>Medium Protection Initiated Moderate Protection Remaining Substantial Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest</td>
<td>PR Prairie River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CN</td>
<td>Large Protection Initiated Substantial Protection Remaining Limited Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</td>
<td>Medium Protection Initiated Moderate Protection Remaining Substantial Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>East and West Branches of the Eau Claire River</td>
<td>RD Red River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC</td>
<td>Medium Protection Initiated Moderate Protection Remaining Moderate Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</td>
<td>Small Protection Initiated Limited Protection Remaining Substantial Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA</td>
<td>Langlade Moraine</td>
<td>UP Upper Wolf River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA</td>
<td>Medium Protection Initiated Moderate Protection Remaining Substantial Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</td>
<td>Large Protection Initiated Substantial Protection Remaining Moderate Conservation Significance Recreation Potential</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Insert Map 1 – Potential Trails and Legacy Areas
Chapter 2

DESCRIPTION OF LANGLADE COUNTY

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

This section describes the physical features that make up Langlade County. This information is essential in determining the potential as well as the limitations of an area for recreation development. Recreation planners use this kind of data to determine which resources to develop and which resources to protect or preserve.

Geography and Land Use

Langlade County in northeastern Wisconsin has a total of 567,621 acres; of which 55.6% is forested, 20.7% is used for agriculture, 1.6% is water, 19.2% is wetlands, 1.5% for open space, 1.0% is for transportation (which includes airports and roads), 0.2% for residential, and 0.2% is for commercial and industrial uses. The City of Antigo, the county seat, is in the southern part of the County. In addition to the City of Antigo, Langlade County contains the Village of White Lake, and 17 towns (see Figure 1).

Figure 1  Location
Climate

Langlade County has a continental climate characterized by cold, snowy winters, warm summer days and cool summer nights. Precipitation is well suited to outdoor activities with an annual snowfall range from 20 to 90+ inches and an annual mean of 51.9 inches during the past 40 years. June is generally the wettest month and the last part of August the driest. Precipitation averages 30.6 inches annually. The sun shines 65 percent of the time possible in summer, and 45 percent in winter. The prevailing wind is from the southwest. Average wind speed is highest in spring at 12 miles per hour.

Topography

The topography of Langlade County is of glacial origin, and is characterized mostly by moraines and outwash plains and partly by drumlins, eskers, kames, lake plains, bogs. The moraines include the older drift area in the southwestern part of the county. The outwash plains include the Antigo Flats, which are located in the south-central part of Langlade County. Elevations in Langlade County range from 1,070 feet above sea level where the Wolf River leaves the County, to about 1,900 feet above sea level in the Town of Langlade. Slopes are shown on Map 1.

The eastern part of the county is within the drainage basin of the Wolf River, and the western part is within the Wisconsin River drainage basin. In Langlade County, the Wolf River starts at Upper Post Lake, flows generally south and east, and leaves the county just south of Markton. The Wolf River drops about 440 feet in the county, but mainly it drops between the communities of Lily and Markton.

Surface Water

The numerous lakes and streams in Langlade County provide outstanding recreation opportunities. The Wolf River, which flows through the eastern part of the county, is one of the most valuable rivers in the state. The source of the Wolf River is Pine Lake in Hiles, Wisconsin. The river travels the full length of the County and is the largest body of water with 984 acres. The river offers outstanding trout fishing, scenic value, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and wildlife habitat. The gradient is very steep for a Midwestern river. It drops 420 feet in 50 miles from the Upper Post Lake Dam to the Menominee Indian Reservation. There are 17 named rapids on the Wolf River as it winds through Langlade County.

In addition to the Wolf River, Langlade County has 225 streams, with a total length of 513 miles and a total surface area of about 1,800 acres. There are 387 miles regarded as prime trout fishing streams. The Wolf and Eau Claire River are two highly regarded Class 1 trout fishing resources.

Lakes cover 8,864 surface acres and 381 miles of shoreline. Natural lakes number 843, with 418 of these having public access. Most of the lakes are spring lakes or seepage lakes. White Lake is the largest spring lake, while Upper Post Lake, an impoundment and a drainage lake, is the largest lake in the County. The deepest lake is Goto Lake, which is 82 feet deep.

The quality of water is generally good. A number of lakes are in natural unspoiled settings. Eutrophication is a major pollution problem. During the summer, shallow water areas contain algea
and weeds. The water is predominantly very soft in the seepage, drained, and drainage lakes, but the water is hard in many of the spring lakes and streams.

Groundwater

The groundwater in Langlade County meets municipal, industrial, rural, and irrigation needs. The largest consumer is Antigo. The source of this water is local precipitation. The groundwater generally moves southward. On the Antigo Flats the groundwater depth averages 25 feet deep and is deeper in the eastern part of the flats.

The quality of the ground water is generally very good. Many soils however have very porous layers that are poor filters for domestic waste and agricultural chemicals. The impact of development and agriculture may cause deterioration of the ground water. Generally, the content of dissolved solids in the ground water is relatively low in the western half of Langlade County and relatively high in the eastern half. The higher content in the eastern part probably results from a higher content of limestone in the glacial deposits.

Soils

Many of the soils formed entirely or partly in glacial outwash. Several soil series are common in Langlade County and each soil textural class is described after the soil series is named as follows. Antigo, Langlade, Minocqua, Oesterle, and Scott Lake soils formed in areas where sand and gravel outwash is mantled with silty and loamy deposits. Pence soils formed on eskers and kames and in other areas where sand and gravel outwash is mantled with loamy or sandy deposits. Au Gres, Croswell, and Vilas soils formed in areas where most of the outwash is sandy.

Soil properties are important considerations when planning and developing recreation facilities. To help evaluate soils, the U.S. Soil Conservation Service published the Langlade County Soil Survey in 1986. Updated soil suitability tables for outdoor recreation and other uses are available on the Internet.

Soil surveys contain an abundance of information on appropriate site planning in respect to soil suitability and developmental properties by soil type. The soil types identified are to be evaluated for a wide range of recreational uses including the following:

- wetland refuges for waterfowl
- wildlife management
- open space or nature study areas
- parks
- athletic fields
- trails of all types
- ski areas
- golf courses
- campsites, hiking trails, and picnic areas
- woodlands
- hunting preserves
- manmade ponds
SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS

Population & Housing

The population is projected to increase, then decrease between 2015 and 2040, resulting in a slight population decline, see Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2025</th>
<th>2030</th>
<th>2035</th>
<th>2040</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>19,765</td>
<td>19,915</td>
<td>20,210</td>
<td>20,340</td>
<td>20,140</td>
<td>19,470</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: WI DOA, 2013

Figure 2 illustrates the county’s predominantly older population, which is comprised primarily of persons aged 45 and older. Median age in the County increased from 40.5 years old in 2000 to 46.7 years old in 2014. The population is almost equally balanced male and female until about 75 years and older when females outnumber males, as is expected due to females’ naturally longer life expectancy.

From 2000 to 2014, the population of persons under age 18 declined from 24.4% to 15.6% of Langlade County’s population.
The total number of housing units increased from 11,187 units in 2000 to 12,363 units in 2014. Seasonal housing units are a significant part of the housing stock, making up 24.5% of all housing units; greater than the 6.1% of units for the state. Seasonal housing units are found in all but one of the towns in the County, with the Town of Antigo being the exception. The percentage of seasonal units by town ranges from 3.0% in the Town of Rolling to 68.9% in the Town of Parrish.

Figure 3 shows the percentage of seasonal housing units to total housing units in each of the towns and municipalities in Langlade County. The trend over the last 20 years has been for seasonal home owners to retire to their seasonal home, thus becoming permanent residents in their former “cottages”. New permanent and seasonal homes are being built as well. These trends are both projected to continue.

**Figure 3: Year Round and Seasonal Housing, 2014**

Demographic Trends

Table 2 shows a comparison within Langlade County of demographic indicators from the 2000 Census and the 2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Not only has the total population declined by over 100 persons, but the percentage of persons under 5 and under 18 have also both declined. The percentage of persons over 65 years has increased and the median age has increased as well.
Racial diversity within the County has increased slightly, with the percentage of White, Non-Hispanic persons decreasing from 97.9% to 95.7%, and the percentages of persons identifying as Black, American Indian, Asian, or Hispanic all increasing.

Educational attainment has increased in the County since 2000. The percentage of persons with a high school degree or higher increased from 80.9% to 88.1%, and those with a Bachelor's degree or higher increased from 11.7% to 13.5%. These trends are increasing, however Langlade County still has lower educational attainment than the State which has rates of 91.4% for high school or higher and 28.4% for a Bachelor’s degree or higher.

The Office of Economic Advisors (OEA) within the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development creates countywide workforce profiles that include some demographic data. The 2015 profile provided the following population perspective:

“From the 2010 Census to early 2015, Langlade County’s estimated population decreased by seventy residents. This population decrease contrasts with the growth in Wisconsin. Natural population change measures the difference between births and deaths in an area. Whereas Wisconsin experienced a 1.9 percent increase from natural population change, Langlade County experienced a 0.5 percent decrease. Natural population change is particularly sensitive to age. The decrease in Langlade County reflects its older population.”

“Over 85 percent of the population lives within Langlade County’s ten most populous municipalities, with 40 percent living in the City of Antigo. The City of Antigo is estimated to have the largest population change over the first half of the decade with a decrease of 114 residents, or 1.4 percent. Wolf River is estimated to have the greatest increase with a gain of twenty-three residents, a 3.1 percent increase. Overall, population change was small.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2 - Langlade County Demographics</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>20,740</td>
<td>19,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons under 5 years</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Person under 18 years</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons 65 years and over</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Age</td>
<td>40.5</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Persons</td>
<td>50.4%</td>
<td>49.6%</td>
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<td>White Persons (not Hispanic)</td>
<td>97.9%</td>
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<td>Black Persons</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian Persons</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Persons</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino Persons</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Graduates or Higher*</td>
<td>80.9%</td>
<td>88.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree or Higher*</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Housing Units</td>
<td>11,187</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Household Size</td>
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<td>2.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$33,168</td>
<td>$40,994</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Source: U.S. Census

*Percentage of persons age 25 and over
Employment

Overall, the labor force has decreased from 10,298 in 2000 to 9,694 in 2014, a decrease of 5.8%, see Table 3. The labor force is defined as the number of persons, sixteen and over, employed or looking for employment. Persons over sixteen who are students, homemakers, retired, institutionalized, or unable/unwilling to seek employment are not considered part of the labor force. The unemployment rate in Langlade County more than doubled from 3.6% in 2000 to 7.7% in 2014.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3 - Langlade County Civilian Labor Force</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Force</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,694</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8,948</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>59.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: U.S. Census

Table 4 contains industry level employment data for 2014 along with annual employment change. Approximately 66 percent of total employment was in the top three industry sectors the Trade, Transportation, Utilities sector; the Education & Health sector; and the Manufacturing sector.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 4 - Langlade County Employment by Industry, 2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Avg Emp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade, Transportation, Utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional &amp; Business Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leisure &amp; Hospitality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WI DWD, QCEW 2014
Chapter 3
EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

INTRODUCTION

This section is an inventory of the existing outdoor recreational facilities in Langlade County, which will focus primarily upon public facilities. Some private facilities will be listed for reference purposes. The private sector provides many recreational opportunities but this plan’s purpose is to identify public facility improvements that may qualify for state and federal money.

COUNTY FOREST

The Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Department manages 130,002 acres of county forest. This land is managed for multiple uses, and is independently certified as sustainably managed and harvested. Some of the county forest is closed to motorized vehicles. Examples of permitted recreational activities are hunting, fishing, hiking, snowmobiling, camping, bough cutting (permit required), firewood collection (permit required), and wildlife observation. Refer to Maps 2 and 5 for Langlade County Forest Land. An itemized list of county facilities exists in Tables 5 and 6.

WOLF RIVER STATE TRAIL

The Wolf River State Trail in Langlade County was developed over the last 5 years. The entire trail is open to snowmobile use when the trails are officially open. The trail from White Lake to 1/4 mile north of Highway 64, was developed and is open to ATV’s and UTV’s. ATV/UTV use then branches off of the rail grade to the northwest to connect with the existing county ATV trail system. The section from Hwy 55 at Lily north to the Forest County line was developed in 2012 and is open to ATV/UTV use. This section connects to the Forest County ATV trail system. The section from Lily south to ¼ mile north of Highway 64 was developed in 2014 as a non-motorized segment during the spring, summer, and fall months. Hiking, biking and horseback riding are permitted on this section of trail. No motorized uses (except snowmobiles) will be allowed on the section from Highway 64 to Lily. See Map 2 to view these usage zones on the trail.

TOWN OF PECK FORESTS

The Town of Peck owns 2,333 acres of land for the Peck Town Forest, and 80 acres for Peck School's Forest.
POINTS OF INTEREST

Langlade County contains both historic and contemporary points of interest of cultural, aesthetic, recreational, and scientific importance. A number of private sites may be open to the public, while others in private ownership are closed.

A) Historical Marker

A state historical marker titled: **Langlade County Forest-Wisconsin's First County Forest** is located in Veterans Memorial County Park.

A state historical marker titled: **De Langlade** is located at the junctions of STH 55 and 64.

A state historical marker titled: **Old Military Road** is located 3.5 mi north of Lily at Wolf River on STH 55.

A state historical marker titled: **Antigo Silt Loam, State Soil of Wisconsin** is located on STH 52 near the junction with STH 64.

B) Geologic Sites

Langlade County's topography is described in Chapter 2 – Description of Langlade County. Several land features are named below:

**Ninemile Hill**, Town of Wolf River (T32N R14E), privately owned.

C) Named Springs

Langlade County's hydrology is described in Chapter 2 – Description of Langlade County. Several springs are named below:

**Payne Spring**, Town of Parrish, county forest land.
**Bellis Spring**, Town of Elcho, privately owned.
**Flood Spring**, Town of Elcho, privately owned.
**Rasmussen Spring**, Town of Upham, privately owned.
**Blue Springs**, Town of Upham, privately owned.
**Woodchuck Springs**, Town of Elcho, county forest land.
**Steven Springs**, Town of Ainsworth, county forest land.
**Augustyn Springs**, Town of Ainsworth, privately owned.
**Lily Springs**, Town of Langlade, privately owned.
**O'Brien Springs**, Town of Wolf River, privately owned.
**McCaslin Springs**, Town of Wolf River, national forest.
**Roix Springs**, Town of Wolf River, privately owned.
Galyan Springs, Town of Evergreen, privately owned.

Stillhouse Springs, Town of Evergreen, privately owned.

The Town of Evergreen has many un-named springs that are privately owned.

PUBLIC ACCESS POINTS TO WATER BODIES

Public Access sites on Langlade County's lakes and streams have been extensively inventoried and catalogued by the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission in the Langlade County Public Access Study 2006. This public access study is undergoing final reviews, and will soon be available from the Langlade County Forestry Department. Various public entities in Langlade County own and maintain 90 access points in all – 18 developed, 65 undeveloped, and 7 parks with possible beaches. Public access to waterbodies will be ensured when development occurs by state statute and county zoning ordinances. See the Implementation Strategies chapter under Public Access to Waterways, Park Dedication, and Use of Easements for more details.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FACILITIES

Three school districts provide additional local recreation opportunities in Langlade County. School yards often have playgrounds with play equipment, ball diamonds, and basketball hoops. These school yards are neighborhood parks that range in size from 1 to 15 acres. All school district facilities are listed along with other outdoor facilities in the tables starting on page 20.

The Unified School District of Antigo has 9 such facilities, Elcho contains 1 site, and White Lake maintains 1 site. Each school district has school forests. These forests are open to the public for a variety of recreational and educational uses.

The Unified School District of Antigo owns and maintains several school forests that are listed below. Contact the Unified School District of Antigo for rules of use on school forest lands.

- Pleasant View School Forest, 20 acres;
- Crestwood School Forest, 38 acres;
- Forestview School Forest, 38 acres;
- Liberty Bell Forty, 40 acres;
- Deerbrook School Forest, 80 acres;
- Noboken School Forest, 168 acres;

The Elcho School District owns and maintains two school forests listed below. Contact the Elcho School District for rules of use on school forest lands.

- Elcho School Forest, 31 acres;
- Summit Lake School Forest, 78 acres;

School Park Forest is a 6 acre forest owned and maintained by the White Lake School District. Contact them for rules of use on school forest lands.
PARKS and CONSERVANCY AREAS

A summary of all the local and county parks, school grounds, state parks, and conservation areas with the amenities at each are located in the following tables and maps. The following brief descriptions of each park type are from SCORP 2005-2010. Elementary school playgrounds may be categorized as mini parks if only a playground exists. High schools grounds that contain several types of recreation fields would be listed under community parks. School forests are listed as community parks. **Linear Parks** are trails that may have various lengths.

**Mini Parks** – Generally less than 5 acres, these parks are special areas that serve a concentrated or limited population or specific group such as tots or senior citizens. One prominent feature or recreation facility like a playground may be present as the purpose of this park. The service area for this park generally is a ½ mile radius, and a population of 2,000-3,000 people.

**Neighborhood Parks** – An area of 5 to 25 acres that serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Active and passive recreational activities in this park include field, court, and ball games; skating; crafts; and picnicking. Facilities may also include a playground, wading pool, ball field, multi-activity field, ball diamond, tennis courts, skatepark, and shelter. Trees, open fields, and undeveloped natural areas are also desirable components of neighborhood parks. The service area for this park generally is a 1 mile radius, and a population of 2,000-5,000 people.

**Community Parks** – Usually more than 25 acres in size, these parks serve entire communities, and are located adjacent to a collector street to provide community-wide vehicular access. The purposes of this park are to meet the recreational needs of several neighborhoods, as well as to preserve unique landscapes and open spaces. These parks allow for group activities not feasible at the neighborhood level. All of the facilities of a neighborhood park may exist, along with nature trails and scenic areas.

**Special Use Areas** – These areas are for single purpose recreational activities, and often are designed as revenue generating enterprises such as for baseball, golf, nature centers, arboreta, formal gardens, gun ranges, festivals, ski areas, or areas that preserve and maintain cultural or archeological sites.

**County Parks** – County parks consist of 100 acres or more that are specifically set aside for active and passive recreation uses to accommodate large gatherings, special events, and individual users. These parks have scenic natural features that preserve the character of the region and provide a wide variety of compatible outdoor recreation activities; and may also provide areas for camping, historic preservation, protection of natural areas, and special use areas.

**State Parks** – State parks are similar to county parks, with two differences: they consist of several hundred acres and preserve natural areas of statewide importance.

**Conservancy Areas** – Conservancy areas are managed for the flora & fauna resources that exist at a site. Activities like hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, and fishing may be allowed on these lands that may have labels like state natural areas, forests, or wildlife refuges. Each conservancy area has specific rules of use for public enjoyment.
Insert:
Map 2 – Outdoor Recreation
Insert:
Map 3 – City of Antigo Outdoor Recreation
Insert:
Map 4 – Village of White Lake Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 5:
Langlade County – Special Use Areas
Insert Table 6:
Langlade County – County Facilities
Insert Table 7:
City of Antigo – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 8:
City of Antigo – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 9:
Village of White Lake – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 10:
Town of Ackley – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 11:
Town of Ainsworth – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 12:
Town of Antigo – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 13:
Town of Elcho – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 14:
Town of Evergreen – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 15:
Town of Langlade – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 16:
Town of Neva – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 17:
Town of Norwood – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 18:
Town of Parrish – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 19:
Town of Peck – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 20:
Town of Polar – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 21:
Town of Price – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 22:
Town of Rolling – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 23:
Town of Summit – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 24:
Town of Upham – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 25:
Town of Vilas – Outdoor Recreation
Insert Table 26:
Town of Wolf River – Outdoor Recreation
FORESTED LANDS – NOT STATE or COUNTY OWNED

Forested lands that may be open to the public but are not part of the county forest are privately held lands by individuals and corporations that are enrolled in either the Forest Crop Law or the Managed Forest Law. Currently, lands can only be newly enrolled in Managed Forest Law.

As of January 1, 2016 there are 3,811 acres under the Forest Crop Law (FCL), which are open to the public to hunt and fish.

As of January 1, 2016, there are 419,845 acres enrolled in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program. Of that MFL acreage, there are 52,033 acres designated open to the public for hunting (not trapping), fishing, hiking, sightseeing, and cross-country skiing only (s. 77.83(2)(a), Wis. Stats.).

Other than the following exception, MFL lands enrolled as open must not be posted as to restrict access. All MFL program participants can restrict access without penalty to the landowner to areas that are within 300 feet of any building or harvesting operation. Landowners may prohibit any activity associated with public use of open MFL land which may cause property damage (e.g. cutting trees, brush, building permanent blinds or tree stands, putting nails in trees). Temporary tree stands and bait stations (where hunting regulations allow) are an accepted and allowable method of hunting conditional upon no damage to the property, including the tree. Access by motor vehicles or snowmobiles may be prohibited by the landowner on open as well as closed lands. Open MFL lands can be found on the DNR website at http://dnrmaps.wi.gov/opfl/. It is the responsibility of the user to know where they are and which land is open to the public.

ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail was authorized as a National Scenic Trail by Congress in 1980 and as a State Scenic Trail in 1987. The route generally follows the nationally significant glacial features of Wisconsin and is intended to provide opportunities for low impact, non-motorized recreational use. The trail has existed in Langlade County since 1975 with more than 50 miles already on the ground between the Lincoln County line north of Highway 17 to the community of Polar. Much of this existing trail passes through the Langlade County Forest. A planning process is currently underway to determine a route for the trail southwest of Polar and to provide a connection to the trail in Marathon County.

PRIVATE OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Private Campgrounds
There are 13 private campgrounds totaling over 500 campsites in Langlade County. All of these campgrounds are available for a fee to the public.

Private Golf Courses
There is 1 private 18-hole golf course and 2 private 9-hole golf courses that are open to the public for greens fees. Two driving ranges also exist.
Chapter 4
OUTDOOR RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

This chapter starts with a list of projects that were completed over the last five years to recognize what has occurred within the county.

Recreational needs within the county were identified primarily by: 1) gathering public input; and 2) through Langlade County Forestry staff & NCWRPC staff assessments.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROJECTS COMPLETED FROM 2012-2016

Langlade County
 Camp Susan – Expansion of facility (additional shelter space, areas for program activities). Road to camp was improved and maintained.
 Improved road into parking area at Kettlebowl Ski Hill and Cross Country Ski Trail.
 Constructed restroom facility at Moose Lake boat launch.
 Completed shoreline restoration at Moose Lake boat launch.
 Developed nature trail at Moose Lake park in partnership with the Friends of Moose Lake.
 Developed non motorized section of Wolf River State Trail from Lily south to ¼ mile north of Highway 64.
 Developed trailhead at Lily for the Wolf River State Trail.
 Parking lots at Wallrich Road and White Lake were developed for ATV trailhead.
 Ten gates were installed on the Wolf River State Trail.
 Local ATV clubs sold ads so a new ATV map could be printed and distributed.
 Approved UTV use on funded ATV trail system.
 Improved and added mileage to the Jack Lake cross country ski trail.
 Purchased equipment to assist with Jack Lake ski trail grooming and maintenance.
 Constructed ski chalet at Jack Lake ski trail with donated funds from the Spychalla family.
 Constructed pit toilet at Jack Lake cross country ski trail.
 Further developed snowshoe trail at Jack Lake.
 Constructed restrooms in campground at Veterans Memorial Park.
 Constructed a three-season shelter and restrooms at Veterans Memorial Park.
 Constructed three camping cabins at Veterans Memorial Park in cooperation with the Elcho School District.
- Continued Development of 18-hole disc golf course at Veteran’s Memorial Park.
- Updated electric service to shelters at Veteran’s Memorial Park.
- Approved Ice Age Trail land use agreement as a perpetual agreement.
- Extended several Special Use Agreements with a variety of Recreational Clubs in Langlade County.
- Assisted Triple R Horseback Riding Club in further development of trailhead including the construction of high lines and a pit toilet in Elton.
- Assisted Langlade County Sled Dog Club in development of additional trails on Hwy 52 in the Town of Langlade.
- Repaired the 100-yard rifle range and the retaining wall at the Langlade County Bow and Gun Range.
- Developed a short range for handgun use at the Langlade County Bow and Gun Range.
- Recovered lead shot from the Trap Range at the Langlade County Bow and Gun Range.
- Parking area and storage building were rehabilitated at the Langlade County Bow and Gun Range.
- Cooperation with Knights Templar Club to maintain the access that crosses their property.

City of Antigo

**General Improvements**
- Created a shared community calendar and searchable organization and group database through collaboration with various community resource groups including: UW Extension, Antigo Public Library, Economic Development, Antigo/Langlade County Chamber of Commerce, Boys & Girls Club of Langlade County, Family Corner Resource Center, and more.
- Placed PBIS Signage at all ball parks and athletic fields (funding provided by Antigo Area Optimist Club).
- Shelter lighting was updated to improve energy efficiency, and all shelters are now on dusk-to-dawn timers.
- Permanent equipment boxes were placed for T-ball, soccer and flag football (2016).
- New bleachers were placed at various ball fields and athletic fields to meet code compliance.
- Created a memorial donation policy, which includes benches and other park and recreation items.
- All ball fields have infield top dress material.
- Pickleball League was created.
City Wide Bike Route

- Placed signage donated by individuals, businesses, organizations, and groups. Antigo Area Optimists donated the posts for the signs.
- Installed pedestrian signal crossing lights at 7th Avenue and Highway 45 (donated by the hospital). This crossing is a designated intersection crossing for the City Wide Bike Route, and connects to the Springbrook Trail (2016)

Springbrook Trail

- Constructed over 200’ of boardwalk and bridge just west of the high-line (2015)
- Contracted trenching along Springbrook Trail in designated areas to prevent break-up of blacktop from roots (started in 2014; continued annually or semi-annually)
- Repaired approximately 200’ of blacktop along Springbrook Trail between Hudson Street and 2nd Avenue (2014)
- Built a bridge (with Inland Lake and Rotary Funds) across Spring Brook off of Byrne Road (2014)
- Placed Water Fountain/Service off Dead-End of Virginia Street (this creates compliancy for Campground Permit when Buckskinner hold their event) (2014).
- Built a second bridge (with Inland Lake and Rotary Funds) across Spring Brook and just west of the high transmission electrical lines (2015)
- Repaired approximately 150’ of blacktop along Springbrook Trail between Hudson (heading east) and the Northern Natural Area.

Single Track Mountain Bike Trail

- Placed signage (2014)
- Moved fence back and created parking area (2014)
- Coordinated with Antigo Area Bike and Ski Club members and constructed a single track bike loop at the old landfill off of Dump Road (2014)

Al Remington Ball Field (formerly known as Little League Park)

- Groundbreaking occurred for a new Al Remington Little League Press Box, Concession, and Equipment Room in the spring of 2012. This project is partially funded through a donation from the Antigo Optimist Club and other community groups and individuals.
- Patio was completed around the Al Remington/Little League Concession building (2016).
- Antigo Dugout Club installed lights and batting cages at Al Remington Ball Field (funded through donations)
- Yellow fence topper was placed on outfield fence (purchased by Antigo Dugout Club)

Antigo Lake Park

- Installed new roof on Lake Park Concession Building (2014)
- Made repairs to playground equipment – teeter totter and arch climber to meet playground safety code (2014)

**Antigo Lake Park Ball Field**
- Installed above ground dugouts (2014)

**Antigo Lake RV Park and Campground**
- Tent area developed and electrical installed (2016)
- Constructed a covered area for firewood at the Campground (2015)
- Added additional fire rings and picnic tables (2015)
- Installed metal shelves and brochure racks in restroom facilities (2015)
- Installed shower timers (2016)
- Installed new gas water heater (2016)
- Added free rental bikes (coordinated effort with the Antigo Police Department)
- Installed backyard games (ladder toss)

**City Park West**
- Flag pole and bump-in parking was constructed/placed in City Park West 2014.

**City Park East**
- Installed pool controller at City Park East Wading Pool to remotely monitor chemical levels.
- Replaced City Park East Shelter Roof (2016)

**Disc Golf**
- Disc Golf Course was expanded to 18 holes with the funding provided by Antigo Rotary and volunteer assistance provided by Antigo Rotary and the Antigo Disc Golf League (2016).

**Dog Park**
- Groundbreaking occurred in the Spring of 2012 for the off-leash dog park at the old capped landfill off of Century and Deleglise. This project is being funded through an anonymous donation.

**Kretz Park (Ball Field)**
- Bleachers were modified to comply with safety regulations (2015)
- Canopy was extended off of the concession facility (2015)

**Mendlik Park**
- Pickleball courts were added west of the fence in the half-court basketball area (2014)
- Mendlik Basketball/Pickleball Courts were resurfaced (2016)
- Replaced woodchips and refurbished bench at playground (2016)

**Peaceful Valley Park & Festival Grounds**
- Festival Grounds (parking area north of 6th Avenue) was developed; includes electrical and a raised stage for community events (2012).
- Installed two connecting paths through the main Peaceful Valley Park area that connect to the Springbrook Trail (2012).
- Installed benches along trail connections and planted trees per the park plan (trees were donated by ATC and WPS). Benches were donated by various individuals and community groups.
- Installed a speaker system at the Peaceful Valley Warming House (donated by the Kjome Family 2016)
- Constructed the Heinzen Peaceful Valley Pavilion (2016)
- Installed paver connection paths from the parking lot to the playground and from the east path to the playground (2014)

**Railway Activity Park**
- Planted trees per the park plan
- Installed fencing and rocks to delineate drive access and parking areas

**Remington Lake**
- New floating fishing pier was placed at Remington Lake (2016).

**Robin’s Roost Park**
- New roof (2015)

**Saratoga Park**
- Installed fencing along the north and east edge of the large gravel parking lot at Saratoga (2015)

**Cemeteries**
- Straightened 25 veteran monuments in Soldiers Circle in Antigo Cemetery (2016)
- Installed pallet racking system at large Elmwood storage facility (2014)
- Removed shrubs in front of Antigo Cemetery, and planted trees (2014)
- In the process of transitioning all our paper files to electronic, so information is accessible to the public via the GIS map (2015-16)

**Urban Forestry**
- Updated our urban forest inventory and made accessible to staff and public on the public GIS website. (2016)
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Informal Public Input

In the regular course of business, Langlade County Forestry, Land, and Parks Department staff has received public input about its parks, and forests.

Summary of Survey Responses

Langlade County Forestry & Parks Department had the survey link on their website. NCWRPC mailed survey notices to each town, the Village of White Lake, & the City of Antigo; each library; and emailed or mailed survey notices to a whole list of outdoor recreation groups provided by Forestry & Parks.

We received 221 responses to the Survey. Respondents were allowed to skip questions, so several questions had slightly smaller response groups. Also, if a question did not apply to a respondent, then the survey skipped them ahead to the next relevant question, which also provided smaller responses to some questions.

About 60% of respondents live or have a summer home in Langlade County, with survey respondents homes located in most municipalities within the County.

Through an IP address analysis of who took the survey, and by reviewing survey responses, it appears that only a few people took the survey twice, 3 times, 4 times, or 5 times (could be husband and wife, and children/adult children). Responses appeared to be slightly different from these duplicate responses, so nobody appears to have “stuffed the ballot box.”

More than half of the respondents were male (61% male, 39% female), and they were from a variety of age groups, but mainly over 45 years old.

Key Findings of the ORP Survey:

- The top recreational activities, in order, from respondents are:
  1. Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking 68%
  2. Walking/hiking 66%
  3. Fishing 47%
  4. ATV / UTV Riding 47%
  5. Bicycling 47%

- Respondents were mostly satisfied (~91%) with the condition of Langlade County Managed facilities. A few comments centered around too much timber harvesting next to trails, with other comments noting some user conflicts. Other questions have specific management improvement ideas to make that facility great.

- Two equally big themes to the comments were:
  1. Increase ATV / UTV trails (Question 21 – 71 comments).
  2. Increase bicycle trails (Question 27 – 79 comments).

See Attachment B for the full results from this online survey.
Public Meeting Input

The public meeting was advertised in the local newspaper. Outdoor recreation groups were notified about the meeting by mailing them a meeting notice poster. Area residents were able to view a draft of the proposed plan at the Forestry and Recreation Department office; and on the Internet.

There were 47 people in attendance, including staff and the Committee.

Comments from public meeting held at 6:00 p.m. on October 12, 2016:

The Langlade County Forestry and Recreation Committee conducted a public meeting on recreation needs for Langlade County. Langlade County is updating the five-year plan for the period 2017 to 2021. The purpose of the meeting is to review a draft of the plan and gather citizen input concerning countywide recreational needs for the next five years.

This plan will assess the existing recreation system in Langlade County, identify recreation needs based upon public input and recreation standards, sets forth goals and objectives to be used as guidelines in formulating outdoor recreation improvements, and establishes recommendations for improving the recreation system over the next five years. Submission of this report to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources establishes eligibility for the County and local units of government for a variety of Federal and State Aids. Non-profit groups, foundations and the general public may also use this document to coordinate their own private efforts for developing outdoor recreation facilities.

Fred Heider, North Central Regional Planning Commission, explained that adoption of this plan by the Langlade County Board and subsequent acceptance by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will continue eligibility of the County and its local units of government for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LAWCON), and Stewardship Funds.

There are a variety of demographics and a listing of the parks. This time we did an outdoor recreation survey through Survey Monkey, and we had a great response of over 200 people. We never had this capability before so it was great to see all the people who participated. The other part I want to mention briefly is that we had two other comments that came in before today. One was from Judy Peterson of White Lake with comments about the outdoor recreation plan with extensive comments about ATV and Kettlebowl ski hill improvements. The other comment by e-mail was from Lisa Haefs and she was commenting about one piece that was in the outdoor recreation plan, which was related specifically to the high-quality ski experience on page 48. She was concerned that if we only created one high-quality ski experience in the county that would mean that all the others would be left and not maintained by all the volunteer groups that spend so much time, so instead of one high-quality ski experience, she suggested having the other outdoor ski areas definitely supported by volunteer groups.

Ron Nye asked that the public address the committee with their comments and after all the comments have been received that the Forestry and Recreation Committee will be reviewing them at a later date.
Nick Salm represents the Antigo Bike and Ski Club, which was formed 30 years ago. He was impressed at the turnout of people with an interest in recreation in Langlade County. They support biking, cross country skiing and snowshoeing, and hiking, which are called the silent sports. They have worked cooperatively with the Langlade County Forestry Department over the years to develop the Gartzke Flowage hiking and ski trail, which is an attraction to local people and people as far away as Pennsylvania. The club would like to provide the following comments regarding the outdoor recreation plan from the Antigo Bike and Ski Club Board of Directors and they asked me to present them to you. We support efforts such as the North Central Wisconsin Regional Bicycle Facilities Network Plan, which is mentioned on page 2 of the draft to guide the development of an inter-connected bikeway system for the region, designating on-road bike routes, and raising awareness of bicyclists and motorists.

2. The Wolf River State Trail mentioned on page 3 of the document as part of the State trail network Segment 56, which is the Argonne to Shawano route, which is described in detail on page 13 and states in favor of the Highway 64 to Lily segment as non-motorized during the spring, summer, and fall seasons with snowmobiling in the winter. We agree that no motorized vehicles except snowmobiles in the wintertime should be allowed in this section. We encourage the county to surface the trail with blacktop similar to other counties and to add signage. Many of us have been on these hard surface trails in other parts of the state and they do attract a lot of people not only from where these trails are located from outside the state. We support the goals listed on page 48 especially Goal 3, which is to continue to improve and develop outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Langlade County with the objectives being to focus on creating high quality cross-country ski experience, continue upgrading facilities to reasonably accommodate the elderly and disabled, finish developing the Wolf River State Trail, upgrade existing trails of all types, and become a bicycle friendly county. We support the following plan recommendations stated on pages 49 and 50, which improve cross-country ski experience, communicate trail use interruptions, plan bicycle routes countywide, and improve the Wolf River State Trail, and then we recommend a plan to address the operation and maintenance of the Gartzke Flowage hiking and ski trail and the county’s commitment to cooperatively work with the bike and ski club to continue the future operations of the facility. Right now we have volunteers who maintain the trails in the summer and winter for year-round use and a couple of the volunteers may not be able to continue the work long term so it will entail some involvement by the county to continue to encourage “friends of Langlade County” to maintain those bike and ski club trails. Along with the trail head, help to develop the Ice Age Trail and the horseback riding trails. You have a good representation of those folks as well. In the plan, there is very little of the organizations and relationships to the facilities. The facilities maintained by these organizations are an asset to the county as indicated by the survey and deserve to be more mentioned in the plan. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments, and the Antigo Bike and Ski Club looks forward to working with the forestry committee and the forestry department to provide great bicycling and cross-country skiing for today as well as the future. More and more people are looking for these types of opportunities and the ATV people are looking for opportunities to use county lands for recreation opportunities and the quality of life.

Ron Nye mentioned that he had received some comments regarding Jack Lake and those comments had been forwarded to Erik Rantala, forest administrator.
Don Meidl from Antigo. He has been a camper at Jack Lake for 25 years. Jack Lake was founded as a first come-first serve. About 4-5 years ago, there were a lot of reservation sites, this is not first come-first serve. Used to be that you had to go up there on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday to get a site, I was up there for three weeks this year and that campground was never so empty before this all started and then they raised the price and that even made it worse. The only thing that Jack Lake is getting right now is the overflow from the cheap campgrounds around, the one out at “T”, Boot Lake. You are getting overflow from there. I went through on a Thursday and there were 15-20 empty sites. Why? Because the price is too high. Some campgrounds around you get a break if you are a veteran or senior citizen, not here. Why can’t we do something to either bring the price down or get rid of the reserve sites because we use to go up there on Tuesday and we had to pay for Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. These guys come in and pay for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday – only three days. Why does anybody want to go into that site because it empty and on Friday have to move out and hope there is an empty site? It is not right. I don’t believe that there should be when it was originally founded as a first come-first serve. Thank you.

Sharon Kind – I lived in Langlade County for over 20 years. Fat tire bikes are becoming very popular. Lincoln County and Marathon County currently have trails for fat tire bikes, and I think that is something that should be planned for. They really cannot use country ski trails or snowmobile trails. In the plan, it was only mentioned in one comment.

Jeremy Stensberg of Elcho – Would like the county to look into developing mountain bike trails at Jack Lake. It is a great area and it would bring more hikers and skiers every weekend. An area like Jack Lake could be a destination for mountain biking in the winter. If anyone else is interested, he would very much like to promote silent sports in the area.

Greg Resch, Triple R Riding Club – We have the trail system up at Elton on Fraley Road, and I would like to say as far as maintaining it we have a very beautiful spot. We have our own pavilion and between the county and Triple R, paid for putting it up. We have our own well system that the county and we paid for half. Last year we put in a new bathroom and we have manure pits. We have probably 25 miles of trail, most of them single file as we don’t want to interfere with anyone else. We would prefer to do that. I don’t know what the protocol would be to go cross country. Do we need to get any type of permit? Can we mark and make a trail? As far as improvements that is basically what we need up there and maintaining the camp area. We have a lot of trouble with mudders coming up there and rutting it up. We go out and put out more topsoil and fill it in and seed it down. Just small things like that are our concern. We pretty much take care of ourselves otherwise. We do all of our signage, and it is a really nice place and we would like to keep it that way. We would like to make a trail through the hardwood and it would be a single-file horse trail so that there is not damage or taking any trees out or making a road or anything. That way where there are 4-wheeler trails we do not interfere with each other and do not need to worry about somebody coming up and spooking a horse. We have never had any problems to speak of. Everyone has been really courteous and it has been working out really well. A lot of people would rather ride single-file through the woods and it makes it seem more
natural and basically we have the river crossing we put in a few years back so basically we have everything there. I have letters from all over the state from people that come there and ride and say how great the trails are. There is all positive feedback on the trails. People from Freedom, Chilton, Neillsville, Mosinee, Merrill, Crivitz, Bear Creek, Appleton, Holman, and that is just the people in the last three weeks that have been and they always write beautiful trails. It is a nice campground and keep up the good work. I just wanted you to all be aware as I don’t know how many of you see it out there. It is a really nice place and we are proud of it and we would like to keep it that way. Thank you.

Dave Peterson – You should probably look at water trails “paddling trails”, lakes, streams. Everyone knows the Wolf, nice ponds, lake here. You go to other counties and they have a water trail system. They are working on a trail system up to Michigan. We have a lot of nice county roads but no safe biking trails. We don’t have a map that I am aware of that will designate bicycling along with signage. We need large signs at intersections of snowmobile and cross-country ski trails. There are not many of them. We have one small wooden sign at Kettlebowl and it is stuck in a tree. A snowmobiler cannot see it and even a cross-country skier cannot see it. They need to be large and a snowmobiler does not know that there will be a cross-country skier coming at them. I would like to put a rumor to rest. I have been at Kettlebowl for 40 years and tubing will never come to Kettlebowl. Everybody wants it there but it is not compatible. You cannot put a Volkswagen on a track with a Ferrari and expect it to be safe. Jack Lake – so much of the effort seems to be directed to Jack Lake and the rest of the county is only getting crumbs for recreation that is my impression. They have a fancier groomer for only a few miles of trail than I have for Kettlebowl and we pull thousands of people there a season. It seems that there is an imbalance, the meetings I attend, and I think more should be directed elsewhere to take of them. You are really missing the boat on the Wolf River State Trail by not promoting it – the biking events, hiking events. It is pristine and there it sits. A few people go up and down on a bike, some walk it, we snowmobile in the winter time. My last one should not be taken personally, but I think that you are stretched pretty thin trying to manage the forestry, which is our prime industry in the county, but need to address concerns with recreation. Really take an active role in recreation. It really take a backseat, be it ATV, snowmobiling, horseback riding, whatever. We are right now kind of like Granite Peak. We are not right up north but we have the right stuff here. You go up north to Indianhead, Powderhorn and it was jammed with skiers and you could hardly get in the parking lot. You go up there now and it is pretty empty. You go to Granite Peak and they are saving the drive and going there. You could have the same thing happening here. Thank you.

Joe Novak – Commented regarding the bicycle trails. I went to a DOT safety meeting and Wisconsin DOT controls the signage.

Dave Peterson – The place to go is the Wisconsin Bicycle Federation, they designate roads for bicycle trails. They will assist you with getting roads designated.

Andy Kostelny, Antigo and White Lake ATV Clubs – We have identified five talking points. 1) Open the trail from Lily to Augustyn Springs, which would go northwest of Lily and about 95% of that would be on county forest land, 2) Antigo to northeast to Bryant area and utilize a combination of town roads and county forest, 3) West side of Antigo over to
here in the Ackley area with trails leading to the northwest part of the county, 4) City of Antigo – open streets so riders could go from residence or businesses to trail system, and 5) Change railroad grade from Hwy. 64 to Lily. The comment period for the Master Plan will be opening up for the next five years.

Joe Jopek – Page 7 – Reference made to Wolf River entering county at Lower Post Lake (should be Upper Post Lake according to DNR Water Resources Report for Langlade County. Page 7 – Reference to Jack Lake as deepest lake in county. Not according to DNR Water Resources Report for Langlade County. Jack is 38 feet deep, Goto Lake in Town of Polar is 82 feet deep. Page 14 – Reference to First County Forest (1928) Historical Marker at Veteran’s Memorial Park is in need of some attention (corrosion). Pages 20-41 – Municipal spreadsheets not available. Page 43 – Reference to Lincoln County (boilerplate oversight?). Page 44 – Reference to City of Antigo update (when and where available?). Page 50 – Reference made to Ice Age Trail in Langlade is almost done. Optimistic? Reference made to local chapter remains committed to working with county and private landowners to complete the project. Very true, but please also identify state trail organization (Ice Age Trail Alliance) willing and committed to working with county and private landowners. Page 51 – Admission fees for county park users?? Page 53 – County recommendation to continue working with local Ice Age Trail chapter in maintaining trail stretches on county forest lands. We have enjoyed that cooperation since 1973 and look forward to the respect and continued support in the future. Page 54 – City of Antigo updated information? When and where available. Page 56 – Implementation Strategies – Shoreland Zoning? Recent state legislation has taken the teeth out of this tiger as an effective local measure to provide long term management of critical natural resource. More reference to specific resource programs for implementation might help in realizing the goals within the document. Interested in funding sources or assistance for purchasing future parcels. I want to commend the committee for having this public meeting and Fred for highly recommending it.

Jim Frisch – I have been cross-country skiing in the county since 1975, biking and snowmobile. I would like to commend the city for putting up the bike trail and the mountain bike trail at the old dump. I think what the county needs to do as far as the cross-country trails; such as, Gartzke and Moccasin Lake, which are currently by volunteers “friends groups”, the county will need to take a more active part when the volunteers can no longer do the work. The ATV trails and the mowing of the snowmobile trails must aggressively go after invasives; such as, garlic mustard and buckthorn. When you go up to Pelican Lake on the weekends, there is a volunteer at the landing checking boats and trailers. I don’t know what they are doing for ATVs and snowmobiles but when they mow they can pull some of the stuff the same way the loggers can and they can take it from one area and spread it through the county. It will cost of thousands of dollars to be proactive. You need to be aggressive on this.

Shaughn Novy – I know that there has been talk about bringing more events to Antigo. Based on a study by the University of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Horse Council, Wisconsin generates over $1 billion in equine sales. We have an opportunity in central/north central Wisconsin to bring a lot of associations into the area. People travel and show their horses on a weekly basis. There are dozens actually. There are hundreds of
associations the last time I checked, but in order to do this you need an indoor facility. If you are familiar with the new equine facility in Illinois, also in Florida. They are supported by State and County because of the amount of money they bring in. Because we are so close to the corridor of Hwy. 64 and 29, we are in a perfect spot to do this for the Upper Peninsula, Wisconsin and Minnesota. If you are familiar with people who show, they definitely travel 7-8 hours. They stay in the community overnight so I would like to see interest in a facility study and perhaps developing an equine center at the Langlade County fairgrounds.

Ron Nye stated that this should be referred to the fairgrounds promotional committee.

Don Belanger, Antigo Bike & Ski Club – Would like to commend the City of Antigo on the walkway and the trails on the north side of town, and also I am a cross country skier and sometimes I don’t have much time and it is really nice to be able to use the trails in town and whoever grooms it is doing an excellent job.

Bob Brown, Pearson – is the health officer for two Boy Scout camps – Makajawan and Camp Lyle. I basically came here for some answers to some questions. First of all, some historical history, 8 Boy Scout camps died last year including two in Langlade County, Camp Lyle and Camp Mach-Kin-O-Siew west of Elcho. Basically, I have heard that Camp Lyle may be purchased for a county park and I was hoping and would agree with that and would recommend it as the infrastructure is already there. You have wiring, toilets, showers, cabins that were used by staff, you have a huge building up there with offices up above and I would wholeheartedly recommend that you do that.

Erik Rantala, forest administrator, stated that the county has authorized him to apply for a Knowles Nelson stewardship grant to apply for funding to purchase that property so it is up to the county to evaluate the property. The county board of supervisors are very supportive to purchase that property.

Another issue is that I get e-mails from the State. About a year ago, the State of Wisconsin mandated the DNR to sell 10,000 acres of land. It was in three different phases. Phase 1 – they were going to go out and identify plots of land throughout the State to sell. Originally, there were 11 in Langlade County. The second phase had to do with actually recommending those that they were going to keep and what they were going to sell and they whittled those 11 down to four in Langlade County. One is right across the street from my house and I would like to find out what your recommendation is. They said that they were going to offer them to government organizations like counties first and then they were going to go out for bid. So at this point, they are in phase 3 which is selling the properties. I want to know what is going to happen to the property across the street. Thirdly, I work with the Langlade County Sled Dog Club and I work with people who do sled dogging racing and recreation out at the horse trails and out by Hwy. 52. Other than that I came here for information and to find out what is happening with Camp Lyle and the parcels being sold by the State.
Erik Rantala, forest administrator, stated that the original 11 parcels were whittled down to four. A lot of attention was paid to the spring ponds in Langlade County that were mentioned for sale and the DNR reviewed those properties and those were taken off the market. Four properties made it to be offered to the county. Now it is my understanding that those properties were evaluated and presented to the forestry committee last month and we are in the decision phase right now. It is my understanding from DNR real estate that if these properties are not acquired by the county that they will not be offered to the public. They want to keep these properties in public ownership. One property is in the Town of Evergreen and one in the Town of Wolf River. The one property in the Town of Elcho will be offered for private ownership. The property in the Town of Elcho is off Loon Lake Road and is landlocked. They are all available online.

Elsa McKenna – To praise the City of Antigo regarding the walkway and cross country ski trails in the City of Antigo and the new pavilion, which will invigorate the Farmers’ Market and it goes to show that if you put it together, and it works, that people will come. I am on the walkway at least twice a week and never been on it when there haven’t been others on it.

Don Meidl regarding the improvements at Jack Lake, were they put on bid or is it just some guy on the corner say I’ll do it.

Erik Rantala stated that they were all put out on bid per State statute.

Meidl - Why did we need an enclosed shelter up there?

Rantala - It was identified in the last five year plan and the previous five year plan before that. That is why these things are so important. Those things are identified and it gives us goals to work towards and that happened to be one of them.

Meidl - So we are doing things in the main area of the campground, parking area. Can’t we have a shelter of some kind put up at the lost 40?

Ron Nye – These items will be put in the five year plan and reviewed.

Meidl - They are rented out for family reunions and stuff.

There needs to be a better way to promote the county. We are also looking for volunteers.

Erik Rantala stated that Keri Beck is here representing Economic Development Corporation and we have been working with them. Rantala touched on the app that is available and text messaging.

Keri Beck stated that anyone can call (715-623-2085) with events or trail updates, which they put on their website, which is langladecounty.org. Also, there is Everbridge and text messaging. She checks the newspaper and Facebook. Their offices are located at NTC in the Wood Technology Center, they are the first office on the right-hand side.
Pete Resch – Would like to thank the forestry and highway departments for the work they have done with the Parrish Highlanders, Wolf River Riders, and the Town of Upham for helping to develop the route between Bass Lake Road and Hwy. B and the trailhead. Erik put a lot of work into this project and want to thank him a lot. There is really no reason, everyone has their own little thing – horses, walk, all kinds of things. There is no reason that everyone can’t work together. It doesn’t have to be for just one person or one group. If we all work together, we can have a trail system that works for everyone. Thank you.

Fred Heider – I have always appreciated the variety of groups that come to these meetings and that is why I really pushed the committee to have this again and I hoped that at least 10 people would show up. In all my other counties that I represent (10 counties), nobody shows up, maybe one person shows up. We just had a meeting in another county, they decided to do the same as Langlade County, and hold a meeting because they are no longer required to by DNR for this plan and one person showed up and said thanks, which is great. I appreciate all the groups that are volunteering through the years. I have done this for Langlade County for ten years now and all the rec groups are very supportive of each other and it has been a pleasure for me to work for these 10 years with the Regional Planning Commission with Langlade County. I also have an announcement to make. We received a grant to do a countywide bike and pedestrian plan for Langlade County that will start, WisDot says we won it, but I don’t know when it will be starting because they treat it like a highway project so we know that in the next four years that it will start. We are trying to get to start next year, but we will have to see it about that.

Sarah Repp stated that she appreciated the positive comments that were received and their plan documents will be available for viewing on November 8 (election day) in the council chambers.

George Bornemann – Chapter 6 – bike trail (60 mile bike trail), which was carried over from a previous plan and seeing that it is here. I assume that it is still a possibility and a part of the plan. The last time we talked about it, we tried to map a route from the Parrish area all the way down to the Langlade County line. It is pretty much set and a number of people have ridden it. I think now that it is pretty much just a matter of signage and talk to the Plum Creek people about going through that parcel.

Ron Nye – call Erik at the office or myself if you have any other comments or questions. We welcome your calls.

Fred Heider – the plan is available on the North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission website. There is a link from the county forestry website to Regional Planning’s website.
OTHER PLAN REFERENCES

Map 1 summarizes the location of DNR Land Legacy areas, potential DNR State Trails, and potential trails from the NCWRPC Regional Bike Plan that are all summarized in Chapter 1 of this Langlade County Outdoor Recreation Plan.

NEEDS DRIVEN PARK PLANNING

Since the 1960's, an accepted practice has been to adopt a uniform national land standard, such as 10 acres per 1000 population, for park planning. A standard amount of land for parks and recreation cannot be universal for a park. A standard land measure is only useful for specific facilities like determining how much land is needed for a specific use like a baseball diamond. The number of baseball diamonds and other facilities are not the same among similar sized communities nationally.

The basis of this revised approach to park and recreation standards is to create a level of service as defined by the customers’ needs rather than an arbitrary standard. The level of service is generated locally for each type of park, trail, or public access to a water body. Public input is collected in multiple ways and the needs for a particular park, trail, or public access to a water body are determined. When specific facilities are needed, then facility standards are used to design the facility and budget for the necessary land, materials, and labor to satisfy that need.

A needs driven and facilities based park planning approach presents the current demand for park and recreation opportunities. The size of a park site is determined by the number of facilities needed to satisfy the active recreation demand within the service area of each park, and the unprogrammed recreation land that buffers different uses within a park and which buffers the park from other non-park uses such as residential housing. Determining the space needs for unprogrammed land is subjective and objective based on firsthand knowledge of the area and how community residents and tourists use the parks. Determining how much unprogrammed land to use for buffering parks is subjective based upon how aesthetically pleasing an area should be, and what the surrounding land uses are.

The size of a park is determined by three criteria:
1. Physical geography. Does the site have steep hills, woodlands, or wetlands? Such natural features are useful for exploration, conservation, aesthetic buffers, and unprogrammed lands.
2. Park facilities. What activities are allowed or will be allowed? How much land is needed for each use?
3. Unprogrammed buffers. How much land within the park is needed to separate different uses? How much land is needed for future expansion? Maybe a park will not expand within 2-years, but within 10-20 years expansion may be imminent. When the opportunity to buy land exists, then reaction must be swift to seize the opportunity. A park growth boundary should be created for this reason.
Chapter 5
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The development of an efficient outdoor recreation plan depends upon establishing specific recreation and open-space goals and objectives from public participation. These goals and objectives will provide general direction to the Forestry, Recreation, and Parks Department for outdoor recreation purposes over the next 5 years.

Goal 1 – Protect, restore, and enhance the natural resources in Langlade County for outdoor recreation.

Objectives
1. Follow Best Management Practices for water quality and for invasive species control in development of outdoor recreation facilities. This will maintain forest certification.
2. Cooperate with those who are implementing the Good Neighbor Authority to improve forest health on the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.
3. Identify and preserve sites that have scientific, historic, or archeological significance. Cooperating with DNR to establish state natural areas is one way to preserve such sites.

Goal 2 – Promote recreational opportunities in Langlade County.

Objectives
1. Provide recreational updates about new facilities and changing conditions on existing facilities to Langlade County Tourism.
2. Cooperate with user groups to provide a wide variety of year-round passive and active outdoor recreation facilities, while reducing user conflict by keeping incompatible uses reasonably separate from one another.

Goal 3 – Continue to improve and develop outdoor recreation opportunities throughout Langlade County.

Objectives
1. Focus on creating a high quality cross-country ski experience.
2. Continue upgrading facilities to reasonably accommodate the elderly and disabled.
3. Finish developing the Wolf River State Trail.
4. Upgrade existing trails of all types.
5. Become a bicycle friendly county.
Chapter 6
RECOMMENDATIONS & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

The following recommendations are aimed at satisfying needs identified to build Langlade County's status as the "County of Trails," while also recognizing the great County Forest acreage to provide recreation facilities for all Langlade County residents and visitors.

The recommendations and capital improvements are based on the goals and objectives, and the public comment documented in Chapter 4-Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment. Although it is unlikely that all recommendations presented in this plan will be undertaken in the next five years, they should be recognized as causes for action if the opportunity or need arises.

COUNTYWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

Improve Cross-Country Ski Experience
There are four cross-country ski trail areas in the county (i.e. Moccasin Lake, Jack Lake, Gartzke, and Kettlebowl). Public sentiment in the Online Survey promoted the idea of focusing on maintaining only one trail area in a high quality, consistent manner, all winter long.

Recommendations:
1. Pick the cross-country ski trail system (i.e. Moccasin Lake, Jack Lake, Gartzke, or Kettlebowl) where a consistent, high quality ski experience will be maintained all winter, and provide both county and volunteer maintenance for that system.
2. Continue voluntary donation systems at all the trails to help support ongoing and future maintenance.
3. Establish an annual button fee (potentially $25) for cross country ski trail use.
4. Continue to support volunteer's maintenance of the cross country ski trail systems.

Communicating Trail Use Interruptions
Everyone recognizes that the County Forest is actively managed, which means sustainable harvesting occurs and trails temporarily close. Planning ahead for the next weekend is important for tourists.

Recommendation:
1. Continually updating the "Activity and Trail Reports" section of the "www.langladecounty.org" website is the easiest way to get trail closure notices out to the public.
2. Provide these trail notices to clubs in the County, so they may also push out the information to their members.
3. Don't forget to also update any GIS trail layers available through the Langlade County App that people download to their mobile devices.
Plan Bicycle Routes Countywide
Two equally big themes to the Online Survey comments were:

1) increase ATV / UTV trails (Question 21 provided 71 related comments); and
2) Increase bicycle trails (Question 27 provided 79 related comments).

All roads in Langlade County are available to bicycle on legally, but high and moderate traffic roads may need a paved shoulder to make travel for bicycles safer.

This recommendation is to pursue creating a bicycle facilities plan to determine what locally approved roads and highways could become bike routes.

New Bicycle & ATV Trail
The following bicycle and ATV trail was suggested during the public meeting on Oct. 18, 2011. Create a trail using fire lanes on county forest lands from Parrish to Summit Lake to Jack Lake to the Kettle Bowl area to White Lake. This would be about a 60 mile trail. Approvals and trail signs (color coded for bicycling difficulty) would be needed to make these existing roadways a trail.

Ice Age Trail Development
The Ice Age Trail in Langlade County has a final trail area identified to finish the trail. The local chapter and the Ice Age Trail Alliance remain willing and committed to working with the county and private landowners to complete the trail.

Wolf River State Trail
Develop a parking lot with handicapped parking spots at West Hollister Road, and connect it to the Wolf River bridge with a handicapped accessible trail. Establish a small shelter, and other amenities to assist the handicapped.

Continue to work on creating an ATV alternative trail where the original trail will not allow upgrades for ATV’s usage in summer. See Map 2 for sections of this trail that don’t allow ATV use.

Complete resurfacing of entire trail.

Campground Reservations
The next step for the County of Trails to attract more tourists is to accept advanced campground registrations, which is just like reserving a hotel room. Allowing tourists and residents to reserve campground spots in advance provides a guarantee that a spot exists when they get there. After a reservation system is established, if a campsite is not reserved, then drive-in and self-registration would be allowed. If there is concern that tourists will reserve all the spots first, then resident registration could occur 1 week earlier, and a resident and non-resident fee could be charged too.
Campground Admission Fee

Brief Background: Veterans Memorial Park & Campground had the same campsite registration fee since 2007 ($20/night). Restrooms and the camp sites were improved, so in 2016 the campsite registration fee went up to $30/night. Currently no admission is charged to enter the park.

This recommendation is to add an admission fee for everyone who enters the park, and then maybe the campsite price could come down. Maybe the campers would just show their registration tag to get free admission, or maybe they would pay a reduced admission fee.

Possible admission fees:
- $2/car daily admission fee;
- No fee for those with reserved campsites (an extra tag will be needed for display in the primary car’s windshield for free admission);
- For reserved campsites, a second vehicle sticker/windshield tag could be purchased - $5 regardless of how long the reservation is for;
- $10/car annual admission fee.

Waukesha County Parks charge:
1. a daily admission fee of $4 per car;
2. an annual admission fee of $32 for the first car, & $16 for up to two more cars;
3. resident senior annual = $16/car, & $10 for up to two more cars.

https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/parkfees/

Develop Formal Volunteerism Mechanism

Langlade County residents have maintained various parks and trails throughout the county for decades. Many of the groups of people who initiated various trails and parks would like to pass on their maintenance responsibilities to others who love the facilities as much as they do.

This recommendation is to create various “friends of…” groups for each facility that has had a dedicated group of volunteers.

The second part to this recommendation is to encourage existing groups to establish annual membership drives, and to establish leadership terms so that new people may participate in directing the organization, regardless of if the group is formally organized or not.

The third part of this recommendation is to create an “Adopt-a-Park or Trail” program. Marathon County Parks has this program. Creating this program encourages residents to visit their chosen site on a regular basis, and to report through the online form any problems or to suggest improvements. This may be a way to directly advertise to volunteers any special events at the particular park or trail. One day these occasional monitors may convert to park/trail volunteers.
Insert:
Map 5 – Langlade County Forest Management Units
COUNTY FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT RECOMMENDATIONS

These recommendations were taken from the 15-year County Forest Plan.

Elcho and Parrish Management Units
- Continue to improve and maintain Parrish Highlands ATV Trail.
- Continue to improve and maintain Moccasin Lake X-C Ski Trail and Horse Trail.
- Work with local Ice Age Trail Chapter to continue to maintain Ice Age Trail.
- Maintain Ice Trail.

Ackley Management Unit
- Continue to work with Antigo DNR to maintain this area for wildlife and waterfowl production.
- Develop Mills Recreation Area for a hiking/biking trail.

Lost Lake Management Unit
- Continue to develop ATV connector trail.
- Develop bird watching area in Spider Creek Flowage.

Jack Lake/Stevens Spring Management Units
- Further develop and improve bike trail and hiking trail.
- Develop horseback trail in area of existing X-C ski trail.
- Further develop and maintain hunter walking trail.
- Monitor use of new primitive campground and possibly expand.
- Maintain Ice Age Trail.

Augustyn Springs/Fisher Lake Management Units
- Work with local clubs to connect trail to businesses and other ATV trails.
- Develop walking trail around Lawrence Lake.
- Maintain Ice Age Trail.

Kettlebowl
- Continue to expand X-C ski trail.
- Work with club to update equipment and ski hill
- Begin to develop a tubing hill.
- Maintain Ice Age Trail.

Evergreen Management Unit
- Continue to develop and maintain horse and dog sled trail.
- Further develop primitive camping area for users of horse trail.
- Develop an ATV trail that will connect to Augustyn Springs Trail.

Camp Susan Management Unit
- Improve and further develop hiking trail.
CITY OF ANTIGO RECOMMENDATIONS
Recommendations came from the City of Antigo.

Refer to Antigo Park Master Plan for additional details.

The City of Antigo has their own Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- All parks and/or trail segments should have uniform signage that states the park name, address, or location information;
- Collaborate with various groups, organizations, clubs, and individuals to promote and grow recreational opportunities within our community; enhancing our local quality of life and providing a desirable place to stay for visitors;
- Continue expansion of paved off-road routes for our city trail and bike system;
- Develop parks that provide amenities that can function and serve the community and visitors and provide the ability to host a variety of events and programs;
- Work with law enforcement to deter vandalism to parks and trail systems.

TOWN OF ANTIGO
Projects Accomplished and Recommendations came from the Town's reply to their survey.

Projects Accomplished:
- Extended ATV trail from City of Antigo to Town of Neva, through the Town of Antigo.
- City of Antigo extended bike trail through the Town of Antigo.

Recommendations:
- None listed.

TOWN OF ELCHO
Recommendations came from the Town's reply to their survey.

Recommendations:
- Improve boat landings/access points to water bodies.
- Continue to maintain & improve X-C ski facilities.
- Develop hiking trails and mark them for easy identification.
- Continue to maintain & enlarge equestrian trails.

TOWN OF UPHAM
Recommendations came from a comment in the Online Survey.

Recommendations:
- Improve boat landings/access points to water bodies.
COUNTY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS 2017–2021

Capital improvements to parks are the addition of labor and materials that improve the overall value and usefulness of that park. Capital improvements are designed and funded individually through segregated municipal funds. Routine maintenance is considered the normal cycle of repair and upkeep for existing facilities. Routine maintenance does not increase the value or usefulness of the park, and is traditionally funded through the Langlade County Forestry, Recreation, and Parks Department's operations budget. Non-routine maintenance of park facilities, however, is usually considered a capital improvement item. For example, upgrading an outdoor restroom facility for universal access would qualify as a capital improvement, while repainting an outdoor restroom would be considered routine maintenance.

What is projected to occur from 2017-2021?
The following tables are Capital Improvement Plans proposed for the Langlade County Forestry, Recreation, and Parks Department managed recreational system. The projects are not listed in a priority and are subject to change. The Langlade County Forestry, Recreation, and Parks Department created each capital improvement plan. All upgrades and new construction will take into consideration meeting ADA standards. As funds become available, the following projects will be completed.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 27 New Campground</th>
<th>Five Year Capital Improvement Plan</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Purchase former Camp Lyle Boy Scout camp</td>
<td>$1,598,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campsite development</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road construction</td>
<td>$60,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remodeling and building construction</td>
<td>$100,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment purchases</td>
<td>$65,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beach access rehabilitation</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric service distribution</td>
<td>$35,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Estimated Cost for Five – Year Plan</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,938,000</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 7

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

INTRODUCTION

There are a number of different strategies available for the implementation of this plan. This includes securing funds to carry out the five year planning program and adopting techniques to carry out the general recommendations and to move towards attainment of the goals and objectives set forth in this plan.

Attachment D lists state and federal government financial assistance programs.

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Shoreland Zoning
Wisconsin's Shoreland Management Program established statewide minimum standards for shoreland development. Counties are required to adopt and administer shoreland zoning ordinances that meet or exceed these minimum requirements. The statewide minimum standards for county shoreland zoning ordinances are found in Chapter NR 115, Wis. Admin. Code. Be sure to check with Langlade County to find out about their development standards.

Public Access to Waterways
Langlade County Land Division Ordinance and §236.16(3) Wis. Stats. require dedication of public access in subdivisions along waterways unless there is a public access within ½ mile of the subdivision.

Park Dedication
Subdivision regulations can be used by counties to require residential subdividers to dedicate a portion of subdivided land for permanent park and open space use in areas which are experiencing significant residential growth. Neighborhood parks may be acquired in this manner in newly developing residential areas. Local landowners should also be encouraged to dedicate land to their communities for recreational uses. Numerous small town memorial parks have been acquired through the generosity of local citizens. If citizens are made aware of community needs, this form of private action may continue to enrich the public resources of small communities. Langlade County will focus efforts to provide connectivity between developments/subdivisions and recreation areas through trail development. The County will support development of other recreation areas within developments/subdivisions where feasible.

Use of Easements
Open space and public recreation use of private land may be acquired by easement. With an easement, certain rights are granted to the public for a specific period of time and the private owner is compensated for that public use. In purchasing an easement, the public body acquires a right
either to use the land in a specific manner or to restrict the use to which an owner may put their land. For example, the rights to establish public hiking or fishing access to a waterway may be purchased through an easement.

**Leases**

Leases may be used as measures to use or protect land until more permanent measures may be found. By leasing parcels of land, the land remains on the county's and the community's tax rolls and can be renegotiated or non-renewed by the property owner if the monetary prospects for another use proves overpowering.

Another leasing method involves outright purchase of land by the county. The county then leases the land to a private party or organization with use restrictions placed on the land. Under this method, the county receives some monetary return on its investment and retains control over the use of the land.

**Historic Sites**

Historical sites can be rewarding additions to any community's recreation program. This is especially true in areas oriented to serving a significant tourist trade. Nearly all communities in North Central Wisconsin are in this category and they should all identify their historic sites. A study of potential areas is encouraged. Assistance and guidance for the study can be obtained from the Wisconsin Council for local History, an organization affiliated with the State Historical Society and the local County Historical Society.

**Program Costs**

A community should carefully watch operations and maintenance costs when setting up a parks program. A too ambitious acquisition and/or development program can easily lead to annual costs larger than the community can afford to meet. Recreation facilities like golf courses and swimming pools, for example, require large annual maintenance investments to continue.

**Capital Improvements**

Community officials should develop five year capital improvements programs for recreation that reflect implementation of proposals made in their plans and the priorities they place on them. To be functional, the program must be flexible and be subjected to annual review.

In developing a recreation program, care should be taken that the annual cost of maintenance does not exceed an amount the community can afford to pay. Too often, an ambitious program can lose community support as a result of prohibitive maintenance costs.
Monetary Aid Programs
Take advantage of state and federal financial and technical aid programs, which are designed, to assist communities in meeting recreational, needs, and maintain community eligibility for such programs. Attachment D explains part of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, and other programs.

The Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program is a comprehensive aid program for the promotion of resource conservation and outdoor recreation opportunities. It consists of several older aid programs such as LAWCON and Local Park Aids, combined with new programs, such as the Urban Rivers Program.

Requirements for application to the Stewardship Fund include the requirement that the applicant submits an approved comprehensive outdoor recreation plan. This plan is designed to meet that requirement. For the remaining program requirements, or additional information contact:

    Community Services Specialist
    Rhinelander Service Center
    107 Sutliff Ave
    Rhinelander, WI 54501

Attachment D provides a list of state and federal government financial assistance programs.

Besides state and federal aid programs, there are other sources of funding such as private foundations, trust funds, and civic and recreation organizations.

Future Planning
At a minimum, all communities should reassess their recreational needs near the end of the five year period covered by this plan. More frequent appraisal of needs may be called for under certain conditions such as extreme variations in funding capability, rapid population changes, actions of other units of government and private enterprise, and the recognition of new legislation, laws, and public programs.

Lifetime Activities
Community and school officials responsible for recreation should place greater emphasis on land areas and facilities that can support "lifetime" recreational activities. Falling into this category are activities like golf, tennis, all target sports, horseshoes, cross country skiing, skating, running, volleyball, handball, badminton, back packing, and canoeing. Many schools have programs aimed at teaching recreational activities that people can participate in for a lifetime.

Snowmobile/ATV Routes
Since snowmobiles and ATVs can be considered a noise nuisance and a hazard for non-users, municipalities may wish to designate specific routes through the municipality for snowmobile/ATV use instead of designating all roads open to snowmobiles and ATVs.
Winter Activities
All communities should provide winter outdoor recreation facilities. Skating and sliding sports (sledding, tobogganing, and skiing) can generally be provided without large investments. Skating, for example, can be as involved as providing rinks for ice hockey or as simple as flooding a small area of a school playground. Likewise, merely blocking off a lightly traveled street with a suitable slope can frequently provide a sliding area.

Specialized Facilities
Encourage development of specialized facilities by the private sector. Specialized facilities such as golf courses, intensive use ATV areas, and ski resorts can be an important adjunct to public recreational facilities. Quality and availability for public use should be emphasized.

Municipal & School District Cooperation
Promote cooperation between municipalities and school districts in meeting recreational needs. With good planning, cooperation may take the form of joint land acquisition and/or facilities development cost sharing. Increased municipal use of existing school facilities during non-school hours should also be encouraged.

Senior Citizen Involvement
Involve senior citizens in community park development and beautification and provide recreational facilities for their use. Although senior citizens often compose a significant proportion of the total community's population, they are often neglected in recreational planning. Benches placed near neighborhood parks and play areas and non-intensive sports facilities such as horseshoe pits located in community parks help to provide a place for the senior citizens. Small, passive use parks and garden located near nursing and retirement homes should also be encouraged. In addition, senior citizens can provide invaluable assistance in beautifying parks and open spaces and can thereby become more involved in community group life.

Service Group Involvement
Involve organized service groups in needed park and recreation development, including development of competitive sports area and neighborhood parks. Traditionally, service groups and recreation organizations, such as Lions Club, V.F.W., softball leagues, and snowmobile clubs have played an active role in the development of such facilities. Continued activity of this type should be encouraged. In addition, service groups could help to meet the need for neighborhood facilities by supplementing municipal financial resources and providing organization and volunteer labor.

Community Beautification
All communities should recognize that community appearance is an important component of a recreation program. Maintained streets and sidewalks, attractive trees and shrubs, well cared for homes and commercial buildings, and neatly landscaped home lawns, public open space, and parks are principal contributors to community beautification. Such a program is most rewarding to persons engaged in passive recreation.
Adopt-A-Park Program
A program which encourages local groups to adopt-a-park or segment of trial or stream could be organized similar to the very successful *Adopt a Highway* program. The groups could volunteer their time to maintain and beautify the county's recreational system, allowing more county funds to provide major improvements.
Chapter 8
PROVISIONS FOR UPDATING

Essential characteristics of any planning process include an inventory of what exists, determining what has occurred since the last plan was created, and what is desired locally for the future. Periodic updating of the plan is necessary for continued refinement and course correction to keep the plan current.

Some of the planning recommendations will not be accomplished within this five year plan period, and additional recommendations may be added as new recreational activities are requested or the status of existing facilities changes.

Annual review of the plan recommendations and capital improvement tables by the Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee will keep this plan current. This review may also occur after a large turn over in elected officials after a County Board election.

Process:
1. Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee reviews plan and takes a vote on what changes to make.
2. Those changes and a copy of the meeting minutes are forwarded to the DNR's Community Financial Assistance staff in Rhinelander. Submission of the minutes and changes automatically constitutes DNR grant eligibility for those changes.

Establishing a full plan update every five years will assure that the plan reflects changes in the recreational needs of the county, and will maintain the county's eligibility for grant programs.

The review process includes surveying the local units of government, outdoor recreation groups, and the general public about what their needs are regarding outdoor recreation such as:

1. What improvements are needed to existing facilities?
2. What new facilities are necessary to satisfy demand?
3. Which potential projects fulfill this demand?

The Langlade County Forestry & Recreation Committee will review information collected from surveys, and evaluate the need for proposed projects based on standards and Goals & Objectives as outlined in this plan.

Submission of 1) the revised plan, and 2) the County Board resolution approving the plan, to the DNR is the final step to extending the ORP for another 5 years. DNR approval of the ORP will come if the correct process was followed.
ATTACHMENT A

Langlade County Wisconsin Bicycle Map

From: Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Outdoor Recreation Online Survey Results

Compiled by: NCWRPC
ATTACHMENT C

Park Design and Location Criteria

From: Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) 2011-2016